

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region VI  
POLLUTION REPORT**

**Date:** Tuesday, August 23, 2005  
**From:** William Rhotenberry

**Subject:** Assessment Begins  
Helena Chemical  
602 Holland Avenue, Mission, TX  
Latitude: 26.2131000  
Longitude: -98.3336000

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	4	<b>Site #:</b>	0606
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	08/22-23/05	<b>D.O. #:</b>	
<b>Start Date:</b>		<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>	7/12/2005	<b>Response Type:</b>	
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL
<b>Completion Date:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Assessment
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>	TXD980625008	<b>Contract #</b>	
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>			

**Site Description**

This site is a former pesticide formulation and packaging facility, and was the subject of corrective action by USEPA in 1982. Deterioration of the containment cap has raised concerns over potential health impacts from chlorinated pesticides.

Contamination of surrounding properties was addressed by previous TCEQ actions.

**Current Activities**

Monday night: EPA personnel attended and participated in a community meeting at the Mission Community Center to describe the assessment activities and answer questions.

Tuesday: Sampling activities began. The geoprobe team completed five holes. The wipe sampling team completed floor sampling in the main building.

Upwind and downwind Mini-Rams are operating to collect particulate samples, which will be analyzed for pesticides.

Personnel used a manlift to access the top of the tanks and evaluate approach angles and points of entry for sampling. Each tank has a screw-on cap and pipe extending through the manway. The sampling team applied tools and tested approach angles and work areas to optimize chances of successful entry.

OSCs contacted representatives from the City of Mission Fire and Police Departments and local medical services and secured support for the AST Level B sampling effort scheduled for 0800 tomorrow.

**Planned Removal Actions**

As appropriate following assessment

**Next Steps**

Continue sampling activities

Following safety briefing, Level B entry to open and sample the two ASTs, with support from Mission Fire Department, Police Department and CareMed (ambulance).

Community interactions as appropriate

**Key Issues**

Extreme heat

Level B sampling of ASTs

[response.epa.gov/helenachemicalmission](https://response.epa.gov/helenachemicalmission)